

2013 Homestead Community Garden Rules and Regulations

1. Community Garden applications will be available at the Homestead Education Center and Heritage Center beginning **Tuesday, February 19, 2013**. Deadline for applications is **Friday, March 15, 2013**. Applications can be picked up seven days a week from **9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**, they can be downloaded from www.nps.gov/home or call (402) 223-3514 to request that we mail you an application.
2. A random lottery will be conducted to determine plot assignments. In the event that there are more applicants than available plots, those applicants not selected in the lottery will be placed on a waiting list and contacted in the event that a plot becomes available.
3. Applicant must fill out one application per plot requested. Plots will be assigned only to persons 18 years old or older, and there will be a **limit of 2 plots per address**.
4. At this time there is no user fee for a community garden plot.
5. Applicants will be notified of their plot assignment by phone and mail starting Saturday, March 16, 2013. After accepting your plot assignment if you change your mind for any reason and would like to back out please contact the monument at (402) 223-3514 so the plot can be reassigned.
6. Work may begin in the garden as soon as you accept the plot assignment, unless for some reason the weather keeps the NPS from getting the area prepared.
7. All plots must be under cultivation by **May 17, 2013**. **Any plot that has not been worked on by this date will be reassigned to an applicant on the waiting list.**
8. Gardeners can work on their plots when the monument grounds are open to the public. The monument grounds are open **daily** from dawn to dusk when the gates of the Heritage Center are open.
9. The National Park Service staff will inspect the garden periodically.
10. Gardeners must maintain their assigned plot and the aisles adjacent to their plot in a satisfactory manner. Watering, weeding, harvesting and any other garden related maintenance are all the responsibility of the gardener. Gardeners may arrange for other gardeners to water their plots. **Failure to maintain a plot will result in a gardener's loss of gardening privileges, and their plot will be reassigned.**

11. **Water will be available in the community garden. Currently, the monument plans to make water available FREE of charge when the community garden is open. When a gardener is using the monument's water they must monitor it all at times and be diligent in shutting the water off after their use. Failure to monitor water use may result in loss of water for all gardeners.**
12. Although the park agrees to provide a reasonable degree of care and protection, the National Park Service assumes **no responsibility for any loss resulting from theft, animal damage, adverse weather, vandalism or any other cause.**
13. Parents are encouraged to bring children to the garden and introduce them to the wonders of gardening. Please monitor their behavior and whereabouts at all times.
14. Gardeners agree to not bring pets to any portion of the Homestead Community Garden.
15. Vehicles are not allowed off of established roadways and parking lots.
16. Be respectful, tall crops (such as sunflowers and corn), structures, trees, etc... should be planted to not shade another plot.
17. Gardeners may harvest vegetables and flowers from their garden only.
18. Gardeners are expected to communicate with neighboring gardeners to work out weed issues, size of plant issues, etc...
19. **No pesticides** are permitted.
20. **Only biodegradable coverings** (i.e. plain colored-paper and cardboard) are allowed within the plots, no rugs or plastic sheeting can be used (no rugs between aisle walkways).
21. **No metal** rods or steel bars/weights, with the exception of metal tomato cages, are allowed.
22. No plastic construction fencing is permitted.
23. The garden will officially close on **November 04, 2013**. All stakes, poles, and plant material must be removed by this date.
24. **If your plot is not completely clear of all coverings and other items, after the closing date, a plot for the following year may be denied.**